

EDITORIALS

Did Somebody Blunder?

It came as a surprise, and somewhat of a shock, when California Highway Patrol Commissioner Bernard R. Caldwell recently made the flat statement that some of our multi-million dollar freeways are increasing rather than reducing our traffic worries. Caldwell says that freeways are often improperly designed in ways that create jams instead of preventing them. In fact, the commissioner blames the freeways themselves for numerous traffic jams and serious accidents. His specific charges are that there are not enough turnouts to get disabled cars off the freeways; there are not enough cross-lanes to allow traffic officers to reach the other side of freeways when trouble happens; highway engineers have designed freeways "in a way that invites motorists to come together."

We can add a few pet peeves of our own. Our freeways are still unprovided with emergency telephones. There is no "crash alarm" system to clear freeway traffic when accidents occur, as there is on many eastern freeways. Turnoffs from the freeways are often single-lane affairs, resulting in king-size jams whenever a heavy traffic flow heads for the same exit.

It is like locking the garage after the jalopy is stolen, but there are still many more freeways to be built and taxpayers have the right to demand that these new roads be designed to promote safety instead of aggravating the dangerous conditions they are supposed to relieve.

What Price Public Office?

In the good old pre-uler days it did not take a king's ransom to get elected to public office. A candidate hitched up the buggy, shook hands with the neighbors and kissed the babies. Later, when population became more congested he had to dig a little deeper to provide free cigars, beer and whiskey.

Modern technology has changed all this. You can't even run for dog-catcher or girdle-inspector without thinking in terms of radio, television and billboards. A recent study by the San Francisco Commonwealth Club reveals that a presidential candidate and his supporters must spend \$80 million to \$100 million in a campaign in order to have a reasonable chance of election. If you want to try for governor or senator, better figure on spending about half a million, at least. If you are willing to settle for mayor of a big city, you might squeak by with a mere \$100,000. Then if you are defeated, you have to include the cost of aspirin tablets. As a matter of fact, the winners often have to figure on spending something for aspirins—even long after the election has been won.

Who's Your Plumber?

Albert Einstein has been taken at his word. His word was that, since he's dead against scientists being pestered by congressional investigating committees, he would eschew science and start life as a plumber if he had it all to do over again.

Last week Local 130 of the Journeyman Plumbers Union, Chicago, sent a letter to Einstein, addressing him as "brother," stating that "after developing the theory of relativity we feel assured that any relation to pipe would be simplicity itself"—and enclosing a plumber's union card.

So the venerable master scientist seems all set. Should some congressman wish to question him as a journeyman scientist, he could very well stand on his rights as a journeyman plumber—and vice versa. And if the business of science should ever peter out, he's set with a sound union job.

Just a matter of relativity!



LAW IN ACTION

QUESTIONS ON WILLS

- Q. How old do you have to be to make a will?
 - A. 18 in California.
- Q. If you make a copy of your will should you sign it in the same manner as the original copy?
 - A. No. The document should be what it purports to be, an exact copy.
- Q. Where should you keep your will?
 - A. Any safe place, where it is sure to be found. Put it in a safe-deposit box, or fireproof strongbox. It may be kept by your lawyer, or left with a bank or trust company.
- Q. Should you later write in corrections to the text of the will?
 - A. No. This leads to the danger that the will may be declared not your last will. Also, the inserted corrections probably would have no effect.
- Q. Then how can you change your will without entirely re-writing it?
 - A. By making a codicil to it. A codicil is a separate instrument which must be executed in the same way as a will.
- Q. Must you write and sign

your will in your home state?

- A. No. But take into account the laws of your own state where you have property, or where your will may be in effect for any other reason.

Q. Can you dispose of your property anyway you like?

- A. No. There are often limits, remember also that community property laws limit what is "your property."

Q. Should burial instructions go in the will?

- A. That is a matter of choice. Often they are not included. In other cases, there is a special reason or purpose for this inclusion.

Q. Can you put advice or wishes into a will without making them binding?

- A. Yes, if you do so properly. Often they are not included. In other cases, there is a special reason or purpose for this inclusion.

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NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

The Third Man



THE PRESIDENT—

YOUR DAILY REPORT FROM OBSERVERS AROUND THE WORLD AND ACROSS THE NATION

McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

LINO WHO—



REC-MANNING

It's Your Country

By JOHN W. BECK

MURDER: The first American serviceman known to have been murdered by the Chinese Communists was Captain John Birch of the U. S. Army. This young American war hero and army chaplain was shot and bayoneted to death near the Lungai Railroad enroute to Hsuechow, China, on Aug. 25, 1945, while on a peaceful mission for the U. S. Army ("The Life of John Birch" by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, \$2.60).

The murder of John Birch was given the hush, hush treatment by our War and State departments, who then, as now, seemed more concerned with "elite relations" and "world opinion" than the fate of American servicemen. There was and is irrefutable proof that John Birch was deliberately and brutally murdered by the Chinese Communists, but the policy of our government executives was to conceal it.

Mr. Welch writes: "The purposes of that policy, it became clear then, and is more unmistakably clear today (1954), was to keep the fact that an American officer had been deliberately murdered by the Chinese Communists from the American people."

WHY? What was behind the murder of John Birch? Why was it concealed? Of what significance to the American people, except as a deeply moving and inspirational story, is the life and death of this noble young patriot? To grasp its full meaning, and its awful portent, you need to read Mr. Welch's book, of which Lt. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, U.S.A. Ret., has said, "It should be read by all Americans who love our country and want to preserve it."

There is, then, some special significance, some special import, to the murder by Chinese Communists of this particular young American war hero, John Birch. First, it should be remembered that he typified all that is finest and strongest in American character, ideals, and traditions, and that he was a shining and dedicated example of Christianity.

He was, moreover, loved and respected by the Chinese Nationalists and the Koreans; and he was highly commended by his superior officers, to include that dauntless American, General Claire Chennault, who pinned to Birch's khaki blouse the medal of the Legion of Merit.

TEST CASE: What better subject could the Communists choose for their first test case? If they could get away with the murder of this young American officer who was so truly representative of our country and of Christianity, and who was held in such high and affectionate esteem by the Chinese Nationalists and the Koreans, they could get away with anything.

An they got away with it!

The timing of John Birch's murder is significant. Note it carefully—AUG. 25, 1945, just 10 days after the Japanese had surrendered and hostilities in

the Pacific area had ended. The fact that this brutal crime was concealed from the American people, and that our government meekly accepted it without protest or reprisal, gave the Chinese Communists and the Russian Communists the green light for their aggression in Korea and elsewhere.

They knew then that the United States, under the leadership of American appeasers, fellow travelers, and internationalists, and under the domination of the Communist-inspired United Nations, would never hit the Communists where it hurts.

RESULTS: Now we know the results of that first test case—more than 140,000 American casualties, about 26,000 killed, in the UN "police action" in Korea; our forces forbidden victory; our greatest general relieved of his command because he sought to win; war atrocities by the Communists, too horrible to print; a dishonorable appeasement truce, with South Korea betrayed and hundreds of our own servicemen abandoned to imprisonment, slavery, torture and death, in the hands of the Communists; further disgrace and appeasement at Geneva, and then the dismemberment of Indo-China, with bloody, militant, atheistic Communism still honored in the UN and still on the march behind the mask of "peaceful co-existence."

In the first chapter of his book about John Birch, Mr. Welch says: "— as Senator

Knowland has stated publicly, if the story of this young man had been known and understood, it could have made a huge difference in our attitude and the circumstances that led to our engagement in Korea. It could have, but would it?"

The story of John Birch is known now, as are the stories of other Americans still held by the Chinese Reds. But our President refuses to withdraw recognition of the fountainhead of Communism. Our Secretary of State says we will "react vigorously," but under the UN Charter we must do it peacefully and not be "truculent" or "provocative" about it. He says the United States must find a way to use its capital to help develop other countries, and that he hopes for a day when the Reds will no longer use "force, intimidation and fraud." Meanwhile, apparently, Americans must continue to toil and suffer and die in Red prisons.

Senator Knowland has spoken out again recently. He says we should blockade the China coast until all imprisoned Americans have been released. Senator Joe McCarthy said the same thing many months ago and he was reprimanded for "striking at the very heart of American foreign policy." McCarthy has been on trial since last May, with members of the Executive Department, the Army, and the Senate joining forces with the Communists and fellow travelers in an all-out effort to destroy him. Will Knowland be next?

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

'Ray for Camino

Editor,
Torrance Herald:
I think the selection of El Camino to play in the Junior Rose Bowl on Dec. 11 is a great thing for this forgotten section of Los Angeles County. It will focus the attention of a segment of the nation on this part of California, for one afternoon at least.

To show the Warriors of El Camino how much we appreciate their conference win and selection to meet the top rated junior college football team in the nation, let's all go out to Pasadena on Dec. 11 to root for the hometown boys.

A SPORTS FAN

Progress Noted

Editor,
Torrance Herald:
Please accept my deepest appreciation as a candidate and as a citizen for your fair treatment of the Congressional campaign during the recent election. Your rendering of the news was in the highest tradition of your noble profession.

Why Bother?

Editor,
Torrance Herald:
Why do you suppose the Board of Supervisors bothered to appoint a smog control enforcement officer, if the situation is going to be that he won't be able to do anything to clear up the mess? Mr. Caldwell, the state man who was here for a while, said the politicians didn't want to be tough enough to make people stop putting smog stuff in the air.

MR. EDITH BASCOMB

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Lute Fraser, who retired from the HERALD recently after spending 32 years here, dropped by the other day to let us in on a terrific find she made in a Lomita market. Back in the corner, sharing shelf space with exotic foods from the four corners of the world, are a few cans of diamond-back rattlesnake meat. Naturally, the stuff is canned in Florida. Nothing like that around here.

The Kiwanis Club bulletin, out last week-end, told one about a Torrance automobile dealer (not named) who was known as a hard bargainer. He was in a hardware store one day and asked:

"How long will this fire extinguisher last?"

"Not knowing the right answer, the clerk tossed a shot in the dark and replied: "Fifty years."

"Can't use it," the dealer said. "Don't expect to live that long."

"Well," suggested the clerk, "why not plan to take it with you?"

We don't know, but we'll bet it was marked up NO SALE.

Printers are collectors of slogans and mottos. During slack moments in most print shops, one of the printers will sit down and set up the latest to come along so it can be passed on to other shops. The latest one to hit the HERALD print shop concerns the forerunner—its origin is unknown.

THIS IS A FOREMAN

- If he is pleasant, he is too familiar.
 - If he is sober-faced, he is a sourpuss.
 - If he is young, he doesn't know anything.
 - If he is old, he's an old stiff.
 - If he belongs to a lodge, the members expect favors.
 - If he goes to church, he's a hypocrite.
 - If he doesn't, he's a heathen.
 - If he drinks, he's an old souse.
 - If he doesn't, he's a tightwad.
 - If he talks to everybody, he's a gossip.
 - If he doesn't, he's stuck up.
 - If he insists that the rules of the shop be kept, he's too particular.
 - If he doesn't, he's careless.
 - If he looks around, he's snooping.
 - If he doesn't, he's unobservant.
 - If he tries to settle all complaints, he must have the wisdom of Solomon.
 - If he worries about them, he'll soon be crazy.
 - He should have the patience of Job, the skin of a rhinoceros, the cunning of a fox, the courage of a lion, be blind as a bat, and silent as a sphinx.
- WHAT A MAN!

It is estimated that approximately one million parking meters in the United States do a business of about \$100,000,000 per year. Have you contributed lately? Don't worry, your chance is coming. The installation of parking meters in Torrance has progressed to the stage where most of the iron posts have been firmly planted up and down the downtown streets. It's only a matter of time—possibly just a few days now.

A magazine writer wound up a little moral lesson the other day with the conclusion that most people can't stand prosperity. We don't think it is anything to loose sleep over. Most don't have to stand it.

More than 7,000,000 pounds of paper have been used by the Government Printing Office in what is probably the biggest printing job in history—the 1954 individual income tax package which includes copies of the return, schedules, and instructions. That will probably just about equal the amount needed to get the stuff back to the government.

Miss Doris Spoon is the dietitian at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

It may or may not interest you to know that we Martins are approximately 25 feet above and beyond our eye teeth in debt . . . and because of this we are known and loved by the mercantile establishments of this community, respected by its bankers and looked upon as quite honest by John Law himself.

Unique? No . . . quite ordinary. Just about everybody's in debt.

But if you've never opened a charge account, put an item on the cuff or taken out a loan at a bank you are probably regarded as a suspicious character. And if the cops drag you off the street some night, choke you, shake you, rush you off to jail on suspicion of something and ring your head like a gong against the cell bars . . . don't say we didn't warn you. Because there are certain reasons why you have never opened a charge account or been granted a loan.

(1) For reasons logical only to credit investigators, you are dishonest.

(2) Something is evidently wrong with your background, as adequate references have never been developed by you.

(3) Since you have never applied for credit, there is something you are trying to hide.

(4) It is possible that you are engaged in activities of a particularly risky or seasonable nature.

(a) Grunion running.

(b) Politics.

(3) If it so happens that you have so much money that you just never had to float a loan you are:

(a) Probably a tax dodger.

(b) A lousy sport and also a sorehead because you have never given a bill collector the chance to run you around the block.

(4) But then again, if you're so poor that you have never been able to put a down payment on something, then you are really in a jam . . . because:

(a) You can always float a loan to put a down payment on something somewhere else.

(b) You can always float another loan to cover the first one.

(c) And you can always get a package loan to cover the first two and also meet the upcoming payment.

So there you have it. That's why we Martins are up to our ears in debt. We don't dare use cash. It just isn't being done.

You what? You're a bill collector? Aw listen, fella, what with taxes and things these days . . . aw come on, just another week!

OUT OF THE PAST

From the Files of the Torrance Herald

30 YEARS AGO

December, 1924

Torrance police captured a burglar who had taken over \$10,000 worth of oil field equipment from various local firms . . . The Chamber of Commerce announced plans to reduce the number of directors from 15 to nine . . . The weather bureau reported that 29 of the 30 days in November were completely clear and sunny . . . Oil drillers were planning to drill again at the "Lore J." site, after a previous unsuccessful attempt . . . The Rotary Club announced it would get a new charter Dec. 18 . . . The Torrance Theater announced that its Sunday afternoon programs would feature vaudeville acts . . . The new Ford roadster was advertised for \$280, with touring cars priced at \$290.

20 YEARS AGO

December, 1934

The SERRA announced that it was opening a local commissary to distribute food and cash allowance to 1099 needy families in the Torrance area . . . Workmen began planting cedar, clematis, date palm, and coco palm trees along the Del Amo tract on Sepulveda and Torrance Blvds. and Hawthorne Ave. . . Three Torrance men announced plans to hunt wild goats on San Clemente Island . . . Local citizens were urged not to go downtown Los Angeles to shop, due to the violence during a street car strike.

10 YEARS AGO

December, 1944

Chamber of Commerce officials announced plans to organize a drive for a \$200,000 Veterans' Memorial at the corner of Cravens and El Prado, complete with gymnasium, swimming pool, club rooms, and various other facilities . . . Torrance had 38 names on the gold star list of servicemen . . . City Judge Otto Willett and City Attorney John E. McCall agreed to donate their services to aid the group seeking to separate Torrance from the Los

Angeles School District . . . The Doak Aircraft Co. received a \$50,000 order from the government to build fuselages for the Army Air Force . . . The city had 4.61 inches of rain over a five-month period, compared with the normal 1.01 inches . . . Ration officials announced that food points would remain the same during December . . . Chamber of Commerce Directors James L. Lynch, Hillman R. Lee, I. Washburn, and George Chapman were re-elected . . . The Red Cross reported that 408 pints of blood had been donated by local citizens during November.

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By JERRY CAHILL

IT'S A FACT

THE STARS AND STRIPES-- SINCE 1929 HAVE WAVED OVER MORE THAN 7,000,000 SQUARE FEET OF NEW TERRITORY!

AN AREA GREATER THAN PRINCE GEORGES ISLAND, HOLLAND, SUMATRA, DENMARK, POLAND, NORWAY, SLOVAKIA, BULGARIA AND LUXEMBURG!

SIR ARCHIBALD PERTHURST RAFFLES DEFEATED THE ITALIANS IN SINGAPORE BY HIS PLAN!

WHO WAS SIR THOMAS STANFORD RAFFLES?

NEXT ISSUE